

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 15, 2002. Claims 1 through 28 are pending in the application. Claims 1 through 28 are rejected. Accordingly, claims 1 through 28 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-28 are also reproduced above in this response for ease of examination.

Present Invention

A method and system for sharing knowledge is disclosed. The method and system comprises receiving information input into a database and organizing items of information in the database. The method and system further includes collecting ratings and comments associated with each item of information and allowing users to access and sort items of information according to selected rating criteria in order to find the most reliable and/or valuable information from the database. In a second aspect, the present invention including an interface for providing information concerning a subject is disclosed. The interface comprises a first area that shows the subject and contributor name; and a second area that shows the content of the information item. The interface includes a third area that shows rating related to the subject; and a fourth area that allows users to submit ratings for the information item. Accordingly, a knowledge sharing system and interface are provided which allows every member of a knowledge sharing group to benefit from aggregate knowledge, experience and opinions of other members of the group. The system and method allows individual members to easily locate the information from a collectively generated knowledge base that is most consistent with that individual's personal measures of value in the information.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Examiner states,

3. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Presnell et al., US #6,182,067 B1.

As per claims 1, 9, 11, and 26-28, Presnell et al. teaches “receiving information input a database; organizing items ... database” (see col. 4, lines 10-44) “collecting ratings and comments associated . . .” (see col. 16, lines 46-61) “allowing users to access and sort items of information according to selected rating criteria . . .” (see col. 8, lines 31-47).

As per claim 2, Presnell et al. teaches “adding content, multi-criteria ratings and comment . . .” (see col. 9, lines 55-67 and col. 10, lines 1-17).

As per claim 3, Presnell et al. teaches “displaying rating scores for each item . . .” (see col. 16, lines 43-67).

As per claim 4, Presnell et al. teaches “allowing users to locate and access selected content in a graphic display format” (see col. 12, lines 35-65).

As per claim 5, Presnell et al. teaches “constraining the input according to subject and topic classification choices made by user prior to contributing content” (see col. 18, lines 4-39).

As per claims 6-7, Presnell et al. teaches “graphic symbols for representing the aggregate rating scores for each criteria . . .” (see col. 16, lines 40-65).

As per claims 8 and 27, Presnell et al. teaches “provides a side-by-side ... allowing individuals to make informed decisions...” (see col. 3, lines 20-40).

As per claim 10, Presnell et al. teaches “ the graphic display format provides a display of other comments providing additional information...” (see col. 3, lines 14-56).

As per claim 12, Presnell et al. teaches “displaying the level of support for an item of information...” (see abstract).

As per claims 13-14, Presnell et al. teaches “selected rating criteria . . . weighted combinations . . .” (see col. 4, lines 16-67).

As per claims 15-17, Presnell et al. teaches “selected personal preferences indicating the importance of each rating criteria...” (see col. 16, lines 46-67).

As per claim 18, Presnell et al. teaches “allowing users to search on a given subject . . .” (see col. 15, lines 20-55).

As per claims 19-21, Presnell et al. teaches “allowing users to add new subject . . . knowledge base” (see col. 18, lines 2-17).

As per claim 22, Presnell et al. teaches “allowing content...comment

feedback" (see col. 3, lines 38-63).

As per claim 23, Presnell et al. teaches "a first area that shows the subject . . . (see col. 11, lines 34-67), "a third area that shows ratings related to the subjects . . ." (see col. 16, lines 40-67).

As per claim 24, this claim is rejection on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 6 and are similarly rejected.

As per claim 25, Presnell et al. teaches "provides a navigation area indicating where the posting is located within the data base structure" (see fig. 11A-sheet 14 of 31).

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Presnell KM system is similar only that it is a system of knowledge management and that it is a method for filtering knowledge. However, it primarily utilizes levels of "prior usage" of information to sort or filter information for other users rather than collecting ratings and comments as recited in independent claims 1 and 23. Instead, a system and method in accordance with the present invention uses multi-criteria ratings, allowing the user to tap the knowledge of the group. Also, in the present invention, comments are divided into "pro" and "con" to allow 'corroboration level' sorting as a result of using a unique algorithm to quantify comments.

Presnell, et al., differs from the claims in a variety of ways that are detailed below.

1. In Presnell, et al., items are sorted by usage data, not sorted by multiple-criteria ratings or comment support level as recited in the claims, the term criteria is used to define criteria which can be used to select items from a database, not rating criteria:

("...the step of establishing a knowledge profile preferably allows the user to nominate specific source databases of information from which documents are to be extracted. More preferably, the user may nominate a subset of available information sources. Further still, the step of establishing a knowledge profile may allow the user to specify criteria by which priority documents are separated from other documents.")

2. The reference in Presnell to "weighting" refers to weighting by usage, not ratings:

"The profiling phase may allow a user to assign a weighting to each type of usage of a document."

3. The reference in Presnell to "comments" refers to the use of linked documents in the style of "threaded discussion" commonly seen in message boards and other online forums. The use of comments in the present invention is to distinguish positive from negative comments, and to assign a value based on the ratio of positive to negative comments that can then be used to sort items by agreement or corroboration level.

Further, in Presnell, "The interaction phase may include respective components for creating, collecting and disseminating discussion forums. These components may allow a user to create a comment document related to one or more base documents and to link the former to the latter. Responses by other users to the comments may then also be linked, thereby forming a chain of linked documents constituting a discussion."

Here, the term "chain" is used in the same way as the term "thread" is commonly used to describe such linking.

4. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to "multi-criteria ratings"
5. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to displaying rating scores.
6. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to "allowing users to locate and access selected content in a graphic display format."
7. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to "constraining the input according to subject and topic classification choice made by user prior to contributing content" (this is part of the novel "self-organizing" feature of our system).
8. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to "side-by-side pro & con comments" as recited in claim 8 of the present invention.
9. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to "graphic symbols for representing the

aggregate rating scores for each criteria" (since there are no rating scores in 6,182,067 other than relevance, and relevance is used in background to eliminate older documents as non-relevant).

10. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to anything like claim 12 "displaying the level of support for an item" (based on ratio of positive to negative comments)

11. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to user selected "weighted combinations" (custom-sorting feature, claims 13-14).

12. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to "allowing users to search on a given subject or within an information item by entering key words." (claim 18). The searching described in 6,182,067 refers to searching the internet and adding the results of those searches to the database.

13. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 "allowing users to add new subjects" (claim 19).

14. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to an automatically-generated "knowledge base map" (claim 20)

15. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to "ratings associated with individual contributors are tracked, allowing content submissions to be sorted by source or contributor ranking." (claim 21)

16. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to "content submissions.... displayed under a topic in order of submission date, allowing new submissions to be exposed to the group for initial ratings and comment feedback." (claim 22)

17. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to a user-interface as described in our claim 23. The examiner reference to column 11 lines 34-67 describes a very different way of displaying a different type of information.

18. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to the method of our claim #24: "provides graphic symbols for representing the aggregate rating scores for each criteria and for representing

the level of comment support for the content submission.”

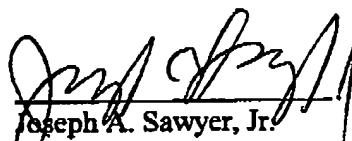
19. There is no reference in patent 6,182,067 to “a navigation area indicating where a posting is located within the database structure (claim 25). This would follow, since patent 6,182,067 does not utilize a hierarchical database organizational structure.

Therefore, for the above identified reasons, the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 23 is neither taught nor suggested by the cited reference. Applicant further submits that claims 2-22 and 24-28 are also allowable because they depend on the above allowable base claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-28 are patentable over the cited reference. Applicant has reviewed the other cited references and believes that they are no more relevant than the cited reference. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes this application in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph A. Sawyer, Jr.
Sawyer Law Group LLP
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 30,801
(650) 493-4549